GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1644
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POLLUTION IN DELHI
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution in Delhi has gone back to pre-CNG level;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring ambient air quality at seven locations in Delhi including residential areas, industrial areas and traffic intersections. The monitored data indicates that the levels of Sulphur Dioxide concentration in ambient air are showing a decreasing trend and the Nitrogen Dioxide levels increased in the year 2006 in comparison to 1996 and 2001 data. The concentration of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) in residential and industrial areas in 2006 indicated that it was below the levels recorded in 1996. The increase in the levels could be attributed to adverse meteorological conditions, which prevent dispersal of pollutants.

(C) The steps initiated for mitigating pollution in Delhi include:

Introduction of Bharat Stage III norms at manufacturing stage for vehicles;
Introduction of cleaner fuel in public transport;
Use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants;
A Source Apportionment Study has been initiated in Delhi for ascertaining contribution from various sources to air pollution.

The levels of sulphur dioxide (SO2), oxides of nitrogen (NOx) suspended particulate matter (SPM), respirable suspended particulate matter (RSPM), etc are monitored in Delhi by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The levels of sulphur dioxide are decreasing in comparison with 2001, after introduction of natural gas as fuel for public transport in Delhi. Levels of (NOx), SPM and RSPM have increased during the period. However, levels of carbon monoxide are decreasing since the year 1996.

Increase in NOx, SPM, and RSPM values is attributed to adverse meteorological conditions characterized by lower mixing height. Industrial activities, Exponential increase in number of vehicles, operation of Diesel Generator (DG) sets burning of fuel for domestic purpose and construction activities are adding to air pollution.

(c) Apart from conducting regular ambient air quality monitoring and Source Apportionment Study for Delhi to ascertain Contribution to RSPM from various source, various steps have been initiated to control air pollution, which inter alia, include enforcement of stringent auto exhaust standards for new vehicles at manufacturing stage, Pollution-Under-Control (PUC) scheme for in use vehicles, use of improved fuel quality, stringent diesel generator set emission norms, promoting gas based power plants and cleaner technologies.